

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 /131 W

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R 081820Z JUL 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4434

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 5325

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT ETRD AS

SUBJECT: GATT ART. XIX CONSULTATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA ON STEEL SHEET
AND PLATE

REF: GENEVA 5239

1. IN RESPONSE US REQUEST DELAY BEGINNING OF 90-DAY PERIOD
IN ART. XIX:3(A) FOR SIX MONTHS, AUSTRALIA MISSION (TEESE)
SAYS CANBERRA HAS NO DIFFICULTY IN PRINCIPLE BUT PREFERS
ACHIEVE SAME END BY EXTENDING IN SEGMENTS OF 90 DAYS. THIS
VIEW SUPPOSEDLY TAKEN SIMPLY BECAUSE ART. XIX IS EXPRESSED
IN TERMS 90 DAYS. WE NOTE US HAS IN PAST REACHED AGREE-
MENT WITH OTHER TO EXTEND BEGINNING OF 90-DAY PERIOD FOR
MANY MONTHS. TEESE SAID HE UNABLE EXPLAIN WHY CANBERRA
TAKING THIS VIEW BUT THEY ASSURED HIM BY TELEPHONE THAT
FURTHER EXTENSIONS WOULD POSE NO PROBLEM.

2. WE THEREFORE TAKING NECESSARY STEPS EXTEND BEGINNING OF
90-DAY PERIOD FOR ANOTHER 90 DAYS, TO RUN AS FROM JUNE 13.
(ORIGINAL 90-DAY PERIOD IN ART. XIX THEORETICALLY EXPIRED
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ON THAT DATE.) EMBASSY CANBERRA MAY WISH SEEK EXPLANATION

FROM APPROPRIATE AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES WHY SIX-MONTH
EXTENSION COULD NOT BE AGREED IF AUSTRALIA HAS NO
DIFFICULTY WITH IT IN PRINCIPLE.

3. ON RELATED SUBJECT, TEESE ASKED HOW US PLANNED
GUAGE "SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT CONCESSIONS" FOR EITHER
COMPENSATION OR WITHDRAWAL PURPOSES WHEN AUSTRALIAN QRS
HAS BEEN APPLIED TO UNBOUND ITEMS. WE SAID WE WOULD
PUT THE QUESTION TO WASHINGTON AND REPEATED THAT US
PLACES GREATER EMPHASIS ON REMOVAL OF AUSTRALIAN QRS
THAN ON RUSHING INTO COMPENSATION OR WITHDRAWAL
CONSIDERATIONS AT THIS STAGE. (COMMENT: LINDEN OF GATT
SECRETARIAT HAS NO RECORD OF COMPENSATION PAID OR
WITHDRAWALS MADE AGAINST QRS APPLIED ON UNBOUND ITEMS.
ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO PRECEDENT, WE SEE NO REASON WHY US
COULD NOT SIMPLY USE EQUIVALENT TRADE COVERAGE FOR AN
EQUIVALENT PERIOD AS THE CRITERIA. THIS WOULD LEAVE
ONLY DEPTH OF TARIFF CUT AS THE VARIABLE IF TARIFF
ACTION WERE CHOSEN ROUTE.) DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STEEL, NEGOTIATIONS, TRADE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA05325
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750236-0154
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750778/aaaacrqp.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 GENEVA 5239
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GATT ART. XIX CONSULTATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA ON STEEL SHEET AND PLATE
TAGS: ETRD, AS, US, GATT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006